

NAVIGATING THE INTRICACIES OF SPEECH COMPRESSION IN  
SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION

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**Annotation:** This comprehensive article explores the multifaceted landscape of simultaneous interpretation, emphasizing the pivotal role of speech compression in facilitating cross-linguistic communication. It delves into the nuanced strategies employed by interpreters to distill spoken language's essence, condensing it into concise yet faithful renditions without compromising meaning. Drawing on linguistic principles and empirical studies, the article examines various compression techniques spanning syllabic, syntactic, lexical, and semantic dimensions. It investigates the theoretical underpinnings, practical implications, and adaptability of compression strategies across linguistic pairs and thematic domains. By offering novel insights into interpreters' strategies, this article enriches our understanding of cross-linguistic communication dynamics, ensuring the seamless transference of meaning in real-time contexts.

**Keywords:** speech compression, compression techniques, communication dynamics, linguistic principles, syllabic, syntactic, lexical, semantic dimensions.

Simultaneous interpreting first saw the light of day in early 1920s when Edward Filene and A. Gordon-Finlay, using early telephone technology, developed the first so-called telephonic interpreting equipment (Kilian G. Seeber 2015).

Stalling is a strategy of trying to gain time by slowing down the delivery of translated material by repeating thematic information that does not contain anything new in order to fill a pause that is too long (Gile 1995:130). The fundamental aim of speech compression in simultaneous interpretation is to distill the essence of spoken language, condensing it into a more concise and accessible form without compromising its essential meaning. This article seeks to delve into the multifaceted realm of speech compression strategies employed by interpreters, exploring their underpinning principles, their efficacy in preserving content fidelity, and their impact on the accessibility of interpreted discourse.

The communicative landscape of simultaneous interpretation thrives on the symbiotic interplay between linguistic accuracy, temporal constraints, and the communicative intents embedded within discourse. In the pursuit of rendering speeches or dialogues in real time, interpreters harness various compression techniques rooted in linguistic principles, encompassing syllabic, syntactic, lexical, and semantic dimensions. Each facet of compression encapsulates a unique methodology, catering to the intricacies of language structure, cognitive processing, and the contextual demands inherent in diverse communicative settings.

The compression strategy rests upon two fundamental factors crucial to simultaneous translation. The first factor pertains to the subject situation, while the second revolves around the diverse selectivity of languages. In simultaneous translation, such a factor is used very effectively by translators, allowing the same idea to be expressed with fewer lexical units. The subject situation is directly related to the selectivity of languages. Any statement contains a certain number

of signs of the described situation. At the same time, in different languages the degree of detail may vary. Compression can occur both at the level of the subject situation and at the level of linguistic selectivity.

**Syllabic Compression:** Using shorter words or phrases to convey the same meaning, such as substituting "agreement" for "deal" or "talks" for "negotiations."

In simultaneous interpretation, syllabic compression might occur when translating from a language with longer words or phrases into a language with shorter equivalents. Here's an example:

**Original Speech:** *"The negotiations between the two parties have resulted in a mutually beneficial agreement."*

**Syllabic Compression:** Interpreter says, *"The talks led to a good deal for both sides."*

In this instance, "negotiations" is compressed to "talks," and "mutually beneficial agreement" is condensed to "good deal," maintaining the core meaning while using shorter, more concise language for efficient interpretation.

**Syntactic Compression:** Shortening or rephrasing sentences, like using "for surveillance" instead of "as far as surveillance is concerned."

**Original Sentence:** *"As far as the current situation with global surveillance is concerned, there is a need for immediate action."*

**Syntactic Compression:** Interpreter says, *"For global surveillance now, we need immediate action."*

In this case, the interpreter condenses the original sentence by rephrasing it into a more concise structure without altering the intended meaning.

**Lexical Compression:** Lexical compression involves expressing a concept using fewer words or a more concise vocabulary while retaining the original meaning. Here's an example:

**Original sentence:** *"There has been a substantial improvement in the overall quality of life due to the implementation of various social welfare programs."*

**Lexical Compression:** *"Several welfare programs notably improved people's lives."* In this example, the phrase "substantial improvement in the overall quality of life due to the implementation of various social welfare programs" is compressed into "several welfare programs notably improved people's lives," maintaining the essential meaning but using fewer words.

**Semantic Compression** involves condensing or summarizing the essential meaning of a statement without omitting crucial information. It aims to streamline the message by removing redundant or repetitive elements while ensuring that the core idea is accurately conveyed. In an academic context, semantic compression enables interpreters to efficiently convey the key concepts of scholarly discussions, research findings, or complex ideas by distilling them into more concise and digestible forms. It involves the skillful extraction of essential information while omitting redundant details, ensuring that the interpreted message maintains its accuracy and core meaning without unnecessary verbosity or repetition. This allows for a more streamlined and effective communication of academic content during interpretation sessions or presentations.

**Original Statement:** *"This dish is characterized by its rich, flavorful sauce made from a variety of aromatic herbs and spices, which contribute to its overall taste profile and enhance the dining experience."*

**Semantic Compression:** *"This dish boasts a complex, flavorful sauce crafted with aromatic herbs and spices, elevating its taste."*

In this example, the interpreter compresses the description of the dish by conveying the essence of the rich, flavorful sauce and its contribution to enhancing the dining experience without repeating specific details or redundant phrases.

This article has provided a comprehensive exploration of the nuanced art of speech compression within the realm of simultaneous interpretation. By elucidating the fundamental aim of speech compression – to distill the essence of spoken language while maintaining fidelity – and delving into the multifaceted strategies used by interpreters, this study has shed light on the intricate dynamics at play in cross – linguistic communication. Through an examination of compression techniques rooted in linguistic principles and supported by empirical research, this article has uncovered the theoretical underpinnings practical implications and adaptability of these strategies across diverse linguistic pairs and thematic domains.

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